

**c.) Amendments to the Claims.**

Please cancel claim 68 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please amend claims 58, 60, 62 and 63 as follows:

1. (withdrawn) A method of modulating cell growth in a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an agent for time and under conditions sufficient to modulate the expression of a genetic sequence encoding inhibin.
2. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
3. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.
4. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 or 2 or 3 wherein said inhibin is  $\alpha$ -inhibin.
5. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 4 wherein said modulation of the expression of said genetic sequence is up-regulation.
6. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 5 wherein said up-regulation inhibits cell growth.
7. (withdrawn) A method of modulating cell growth in a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of inhibin.
8. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 7 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
9. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 8 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.
10. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 7 or 8 or 9 wherein said inhibin is  $\alpha$ -inhibin.
11. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 10 wherein said modulation of cell growth is inhibition of cell growth.
12. (withdrawn) A method of modulating cell growth in a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an inhibin antagonist.
13. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 12 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
14. (withdrawn) A method of treating a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an agent for a time and under conditions sufficient to modulate the expression of a genetic sequence encoding inhibin.
15. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 14 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
16. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 15 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.
17. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 14 or 15 or 16 wherein said inhibin is  $\alpha$ -inhibin.

18. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 17 wherein said modulation of the expression of said genetic sequence is up-regulation.
19. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 18 where said up-regulation inhibits cell growth
20. (withdrawn) A method of treating a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of inhibin.
21. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 20 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
22. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 21 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.
23. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 20 or 21 or 22 wherein said inhibin is  $\alpha$ -inhibin.
24. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 23 wherein said modulation of cell growth is inhibition of cell growth.
25. (withdrawn) A method of treating a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an inhibin antagonist.
26. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 25 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
27. - 39. (previously canceled).
40. (withdrawn) An agent for use in modulating the expression of a genetic sequence encoding inhibin wherein modulating expression of said genetic sequence modulates cell growth.
41. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 40 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
42. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 41 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.
43. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 40 or 41 or 42 wherein said inhibin is  $\alpha$ -inhibin.
44. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 43 wherein said modulation of the expression of said genetic sequence is up-regulation.
45. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 44 wherein said up-regulation inhibits cell growth.
46. (withdrawn) An agent for use in the modulation of cell growth in a mammal comprising inhibin.
47. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 46 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
48. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 47 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.

49. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 46 or 47 or 48 wherein said inhibin is  $\alpha$ -inhibin.
50. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 49 wherein said up-regulation inhibits cell growth.
51. (withdrawn) An agent for use in the modulation of cell growth in a mammal comprising an inhibin antagonist.
52. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 51 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
53. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an agent capable of modulating expression of a genetic sequence encoding inhibin thereby modulating cell growth and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.
54. (withdrawn) A claim according to claim 53 wherein said inhibin is  $\alpha$ -inhibin.
55. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising inhibin capable of modulating cell growth and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.
56. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 55 wherein said inhibin is  $\alpha$ -inhibin.
57. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an inhibin antagonist capable of modulating cell growth and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.
58. (amended) A method of screening ~~for a mammal having prostate cancer or predisposition to prostate cancer~~, said method comprising screening for ~~modifications to a down regulation of~~ inhibin protein ~~levels~~ level in said mammal wherein ~~modification the down regulation~~ of said inhibin protein ~~levels~~ level relative to the inhibin protein ~~levels in a level of~~ a normal mammal is indicative of said mammal being predisposed to develop prostate cancer or having already developed prostate cancer.
59. (cancelled)
60. (amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 58 wherein said inhibin protein is an  $\alpha$ -inhibin protein.
61. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 60 wherein said  $\alpha$ -inhibin is  $\alpha$ N or isoform thereof.
62. (amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 60 wherein said  $\alpha$ -inhibin protein is an  $\alpha$ C inhibin subunit or comprises an  $\alpha$ C region isoform thereof.

63. (amended) The method ~~according to claim 58 or 60 or 61~~ of claim 58, 60 or 62 wherein said ~~modification is~~ down regulation of inhibin levels is the absence of inhibin expression.

64. – 68. (canceled).

Please add the following as new claims 69-99:

69. (new) The method of claim 58 wherein the mammal is a human.

70. (new) The method of claim 58 wherein the change of inhibin protein level is determined visually.

71. (new) The method of claim 58 further comprising quantifying said change in the inhibin protein level.

72. (new) The method of claim 58 wherein screening comprises:  
obtaining a sample from said mammal; and  
contacting said sample with a molecule that detects inhibin protein.

73. (new) The method of claim 58 wherein said screening process is selected from the group consisting of processes consisting of an immunoassay, immunostaining, immunohistochemistry, *in situ* hybridization, immunolocalization, and combinations thereof.

74. (new) The method of claim 72 wherein the sample comprises prostate tissue.

75. (new) The method of claim 72 wherein the sample comprises blood.

76. (new) The method of claim 72 wherein the molecule detects an inhibit protein dimmer or an inhibin protein monomer.

77. (new) The method of claim 72 wherein the molecule interacts *in situ* with inhibin protein within said sample.

78. (new) The method of claim 72 wherein the molecule comprises an antibody.

79. (new) The method of claim 78 wherein the antibody is specific for  $\alpha$  subunit of inhibin protein.

80. (new) The method of claim 78 wherein the antibody is labeled with a detectable reporter molecule.

81. (new) The method of claim 72 wherein the molecule is detected by an antibody labeled with a detectable reporter molecule.

82. (new) The method of claim 80 or 81 wherein the detectable reporter molecule is selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, a fluorophore, a radionuclide, a radioisotope, a chemiluminescent molecule, a bioluminescent molecule, and combinations thereof.
83. (new) A method of screening a mammal for prostate cancer or predisposition to the development of prostate cancer, said method comprising:
- obtaining a biological sample from the mammal;
  - determining a level of an inhibin protein in said biological sample; and
  - comparing said level determined with a level known to be indicative of a normal mammal.
84. (new) The method of claim 83 wherein the mammal is a human.
85. (new) The method of claim 83 wherein the biological sample contains prostate tissue or blood.
86. (new) The method of claim 83 wherein level of inhibin protein is the level of inhibin protein dimer or  $\alpha$  inhibin monomer.
87. (new) The method of claim 86 wherein the inhibin is an  $\alpha$ C inhibin subunit or comprises an  $\alpha$ C region.
88. (new) The method of claim 86 wherein said inhibin is an  $\alpha$ N inhibin subunit or comprises an  $\alpha$ N region.
89. (new) The method of claim 83 wherein determining the level of the inhibin protein comprises contacting said sample with a molecule that detects said inhibin protein.
90. (new) The method of claim 89 wherein said molecule is an antibody.
91. (new) The method of claim 90 wherein the antibody is specifically reactive with the  $\alpha$  subunit of inhibin.
92. (new) The method of claim 83, wherein determining the level of the inhibin protein comprises contacting said sample with a probe that detects inhibin mRNA.
93. (new) The method of claim 83 which determines the presence or absence of prostate cancer in said mammal.
94. (new) The method of claim 83 which determines whether said mammal has a predisposition to prostate cancer.
95. (new) A method of screening a human for prostate cancer or a predisposition to the development of prostate cancer comprising:
- obtaining a biological sample from the human; and

contacting said sample with an antibody specific for an inhibin protein; and  
detecting binding of said antibody.

96. (new) The method of claim 95 which determined the presence or absence of prostate cancer.
97. (new) The method of claim 95 which determines a predisposition of said human to prostate cancer.
98. (new) The method of claim 95 wherein said inhibin is an  $\alpha$ C inhibin subunit or comprises an  $\alpha$ C region.
99. (new) The method of claim 95 wherein said inhibin is an  $\alpha$ N inhibin subunit or comprises an  $\alpha$ N region.